

CHARLOTTE

PIPE AND FOUNDRY COMPANY

December 11, 2006

AGENDA ITEM

9

MEETING DATE 1-8-07

Mr. Larry Helms
Board Member, NCDOT
PO Box 27
Indian Trail, NC 28079

Dear Mr. Helms:

Since 1966, it has been Charlotte Pipe and Foundry's privilege to have our largest plastics plant, Charlotte Plastics, located at Monroe in Union County, North Carolina. During these 40 years we have grown from 50 employees in 1967 to 750 employees in 2006 and have built and occupied over 1,250,000 square feet in 12 modern metal buildings. During these four decades our Company has never asked Union County, the City of Monroe, or the State of North Carolina for aid of any kind. With one exception.

We have a traffic issue that needs to be addressed. From a logistics standpoint, as a safety issue, and lastly, as a common sense solution, we have made repeated requests for a simple stoplight at our Union County main plant entrance / exit on Old Charlotte Highway. We understand that our latest request has again been turned down by the State DOT. We find it difficult to understand this decision. Our plant has over 700 cars belonging to employees entering and exiting daily through this one entrance onto Old Charlotte Highway plus approximately 100 18-wheeled tractor trailer units loaded with pipe and fittings arriving and departing daily through this one entrance. In addition, across from the Charlotte Plastics entrance is the entrance serving South Piedmont Community College. We understand that they have over 1,200 students in attendance there, many of whom use this exit. At our shift changes, it has become increasingly dangerous and frustrating for our employees to exit onto the highway. Topping the list of employee requests in our annual "Employee Attitude Survey" is the request for a stoplight to help them get in and out of this entrance. They have appealed to us. We appeal to you. PLEASE, help us before someone is seriously injured or killed.

CHARLOTTE

PIPE AND FOUNDRY COMPANY

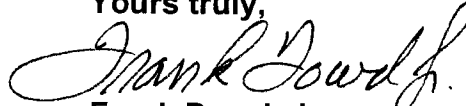
All we are asking for is a simple demand-driven stoplight that will normally favor traffic on Old Charlotte Highway, unless it senses incoming cars wanting to exit our plant or the community college. We understand that a "roundabout" traffic circle has been proposed in lieu of a stoplight. Supposedly, this traffic circle will cost upwards of half a million dollars. It will require taking of additional land and take months to construct while our entrance would possibly be blocked or diverted. Such a "roundabout" would also be difficult to enter and negotiate around by the 77 foot long tractor trailers which serve our plant. Hitting or riding up on a raised curb while negotiating the circle could dislodge some of these stacked pipe bundles. It is our understanding that a traffic light will cost approximately 50 to 75 thousand dollars and will not impede our entrance / exit or cause traffic disruption on Old Charlotte Highway while being installed.

A simple stoplight is all that we request or need.

We are so in need of relief for our employees to have a safe way to exit their place of work that we would pay for such a stoplight. As stated earlier, we have never asked for aid from County, City or State. We believe that we are Monroe – Union County's largest taxpayer and one of Union County's largest employers. We try hard to be good community citizens. Our workforce has just completed a successful United Way campaign and raised more than \$277,000.00 for use in Union County, finishing first or second in dollars raised in the County. As a Company we strive to provide excellent opportunities for employment which have provided secure and well-paying jobs for several generations of local families. We have immediate plans for a 30 million dollar plant expansion either here or at a location at one of our Western plants. Considering the additional traffic this expansion would produce here, and under the present circumstances with such limited egress, it is probably not feasible here in Union County.

The employees and management of Charlotte Pipe And Foundry Company, Plastics Division, respectfully ask that you please reconsider our request for a simple stoplight at Entrance #1 and Old Charlotte Highway.

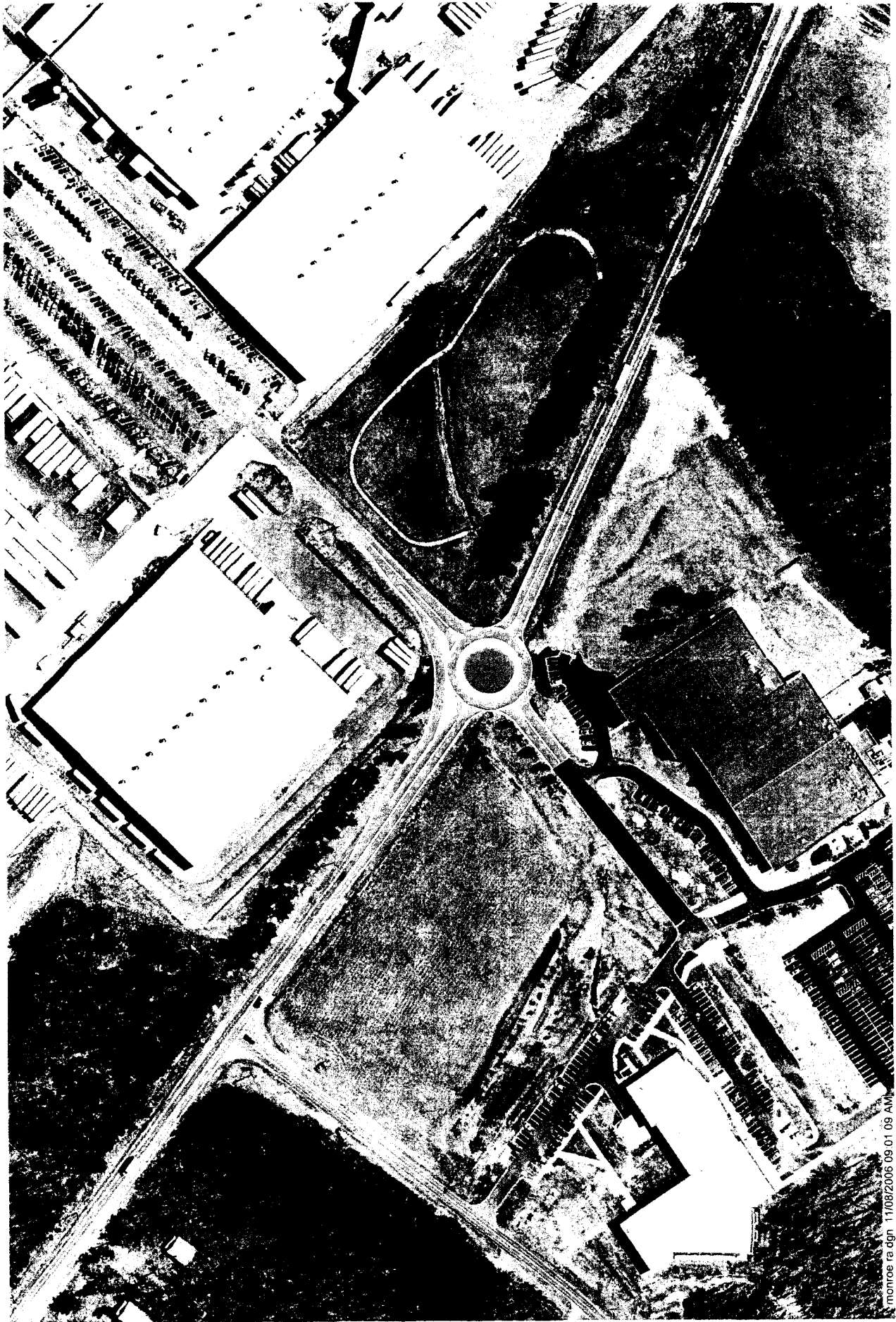
Thank you for your consideration.

Yours truly,

Frank Dowd, Jr.
Chairman Emeritus

CHARLOTTE

PIPE AND FOUNDRY COMPANY

Copy: Marion A. Cowell, Jr., Board Member, NCDOT
Mayor Bobby Kilgore, City of Monroe
P. E. Bazemore, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Monroe
John B. Ashcraft, Jr., Council Member, Monroe City Council
Billy A. Jordan, Council Member, Monroe City Council
Lynn A. Keziah, Council Member, Monroe City Council
Dottie Nash, Council Member, Monroe City Council
Robert Smith, Council Member, Monroe City Council
Kevin Pressley, Chairman, Union County Board of Commissioners
Allan Baucom, Vice Chairman, Union County Board of Commissioners
Roger Lane, Commissioner, Union County Board of Commissioners
Parker Mills, Commissioner, Union County Board of Commissioners
Lanny Openshaw, Commissioner, Union County Board of Commissioners
Dr. John McKay, President, South Piedmont Community College
Charles L. Norwood
Carroll Edwards, Edwards Wood Products
Mayor Patrick L. McCrory, City of Charlotte
Senator W. Edward Goodall
Speaker Jim Black
Representative Curtis Blackwood
Representative Pryor Gibson
Representative Robin Hayes
Representative Sue Myrick
Representative Melvin Watt
Bill H. Teague, Executive Director, North Carolina League of
Transportation and Logistics
Charles Cobb, Charlotte Pipe
Judy Whitley, Charlotte Pipe





STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

MICHAEL F. EASLEY
GOVERNOR

DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS
December 22, 2006

W. LYNDY TIPPETT
SECRETARY

Mr. Frank Dowd, Jr.
Charlotte Pipe and Foundry Company
P.O. Box 35430
Charlotte, NC 28235

RE: Charlotte Pipe and Foundry Entrance on SR 1009 (Old Charlotte Highway) located in Union County

Dear Mr. Dowd:

Board Member Larry Helms ask that I respond to your letter in regard to the request for a traffic signal at the Charlotte Pipe and Foundry Entrance on SR 1009 (Old Charlotte Highway) opposite from the entrance to South Piedmont Community College.

First, let me say that we understand and share your concerns with the safety of your employees entering and exiting at this location. Earlier this year, we collected traffic count data to determine the impacts that both the Charlotte Pipe and Foundry and the South Piedmont Community College entrances have along Old Charlotte Highway. We also reviewed the accident data for the last five years along this stretch of roadway.

Based on this analysis, it was determined this location did not meet the necessary warrants required for a Traffic Signal, as set fourth in the Federal Guideline "Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices". This standard is used nationally to ensure consistency when Traffic signals are installed.

As mentioned in your letter we did make a recommendation for a roundabout as an alternative to a traffic signal. Our experience shows that roundabouts will enhance safety of an intersection while keeping traffic moving in all directions. Our main concern in managing highways is the safety of all users of the highway. Typically, accident rates will increase once a traffic signal is installed, therefore, we are very cautious where we do recommend the installation of a traffic signal.

After the holidays, we will be glad to further investigate the need for traffic safety improvements on Old Charlotte Road, between Airport Rd. and Rogers Rd. We will keep you informed of our findings, and I will personally discuss them with you once the investigation is complete.



If you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact me at (704) 982-0101. Thank you for your concern in the safety of our highways, and I look forward to working with you as we move forward.

Sincerely,



Barry S. Moose, P.E.
Division Engineer

BSM:tgmm

CC: Marion Cowell, NCDOT Board of Transportation
Larry Helms, NCDOT Board of Transportation
James T. Fain, III, Secretary of Commerce
William G. Scoggin, Kennedy Covington, Raleigh, NC
Scott Cole, District Engineer, NCDOT (Supervisor)
Mayor Bobby Kilgore, City of Monroe
P.E. Bazemore, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Monroe
John B. Ashcraft, Jr., Council Member, Monroe City Council
Billy A. Jordan, Council Member, Monroe City Council
Lynn A. Keziah, Council Member, Monroe City Council
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Representative Sue Myrick
Representative Melvin Watt
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And Logistics
Charles Cobb, Charlotte Pipe
Judy Whitley, Charlotte Pipe

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RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CHARLOTTE PIPE AND FOUNDRY
COMPANY'S REQUEST FOR A STOPLIGHT AT ITS PLANT ENTRANCE
ON S.R. 1009/OLD CHARLOTTE HIGHWAY

WHEREAS, Charlotte Pipe and Foundry Company's largest plastics plant, Charlotte Plastics (the "Plant") is located on S.R. 1009, also known as Old Charlotte Highway, in Union County; and

WHEREAS, according to information provided by Charlotte Pipe and Foundry Company:

- Approximately 700 automobiles belonging to Charlotte Plastics' employees enter and exit the Plant on a daily basis through one entrance on Old Charlotte Highway.
- Approximately 100 18-wheeled tractor trailer units loaded with pipe and fittings also enter and exit the Plant on a daily basis through this same entrance.
- In addition, directly across from the Plant entrance is the entrance to South Piedmont Community College, which serves approximately 1,200 students; and

WHEREAS, Charlotte Pipe and Foundry Company has previously asked the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) to install a demand-driven traffic light at the Plant entrance to assist its employees in safely entering and exiting the Plant and to allow for future Plant expansion, as stated in a letter addressed to NCDOT Board Member Larry Helms, attached hereto and marked as Exhibit "A"; and

WHEREAS, as explained in the above-referenced letter, a traffic circle or "roundabout" is not a feasible solution due to its expense (estimated at \$500,000 or more) and the difficulty it would present for tractor trailers to enter and negotiate; and

WHEREAS, as further explained in the above-referenced letter, Charlotte Pipe and Foundry Company has offered to pay the cost of the requested traffic light (estimated at between \$50,000 and \$75,000); and

WHEREAS, the Union County Board of Commissioners believes that installation of the requested traffic light would serve the best interests of Union County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Union County Board of Commissioners supports Charlotte Pipe and Foundry Company's request that the North Carolina Department of Transportation install a traffic light at the entrance to Charlotte Plastics' on Old Charlotte Highway.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to the North Carolina Department of Transportation for its review and consideration.

Adopted this 8th day of January, 2007.

ATTEST:

Lynn G. West, Clerk to the Board

Kevin Pressley, Chairman